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MAP INTELLIGENCE REVIEW



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CIA/RR MR-34S October 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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II. SOVIET-POLISH TERRITORIAL EXCHANGE

On 15 February 1951, Poland and the USSR signed an agreement providing for an exchange of territories of equal size -- each 480 square kilometers (185.3 square miles). The USSR acquired a strip of land, ranging in width from 5 to 15 kilometers, along the SoZokija (Russian, Solokiya) and Bug (Russian, Zapadnyy Bug) rivers in the vicinity of Sokal!. In exchange, Poland acquired an area near the southernmost portion of the Polish-Soviet border where the San River had been the boundary. The new Polish area includes the town of Ustrzyki Dolne.

Although the treaty was signed in February, the agreement was first published in the latter part of May 1951, when it was presented to the Polish Seim (parliament) for ratification. At that time, both Polish and Russian reports stated that Poland had requested the exchange for "economic reasons."1/

The exact nature and extent of the economic gains or losses to either Poland or the USSR as a result of the exchange are not clear. The Soviet gains, however, are apparently considerably greater than those of Poland, mainly as a result of the acquisition of rail lines that connect Kovel' with L'vov, via Kristinopol' and

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Rava-Russkaya. There are also indications that the USSR may have acquired an agricultural area that has become highly productive as a result of the Polish reclamation activities and the development of collective and state farms since about 1949.

Poland's economic gain is of unknown or doubtful value. terrain of the new Polish area is rugged, and transportation facilities are probably far from ideal. In May 1951, Polish and Soviet reports stated that Poland's need for timber, oil, and natural gas would be served by the resources of the area acquired near Ustrzyki Dolne. Polish press reports of November 1951 reiterated the value of these resources, and also mentioned the good agricultural and animal-breeding possibilities of the area. The timber resources of the area seem to be abundant and of high quality, but agricultural activities are limited by the ruggedness of the terrain. Although special mention was made in the November reports of the full-swing production of the existing oil wells and of the use of up-to-date drilling methods in the exploitation of new oil-bearing areas, neither the exact number of operating and proposed wells nor the present or potential production level for crude oil and gas is known.1/

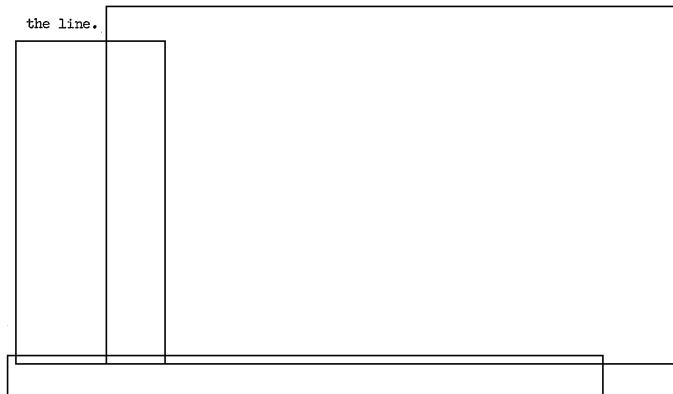
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The February 1951 agreement went into force on the day of the exchange of instruments of ratification, which took place in Warsaw on 5 June 1951.1/ The Russian text of the agreement appeared in the Journal of the Supreme Soviet, No. 23, 14 July 1951. According to the agreement, a mixed Polish-Soviet demarcation commission was to begin its work within two weeks, or by 19 June 1951, and the demarcation was scheduled for completion not later than two to three months after ratification, or by 5 September 1951 at the latest. In a meeting of the Polish Seim on 29 December 1951, a protocol was approved that formalized the changes along the Polish-Soviet frontier.2/

The exact courses of the new boundary sectors are not known as yet, and no information has been received on the demarcation of

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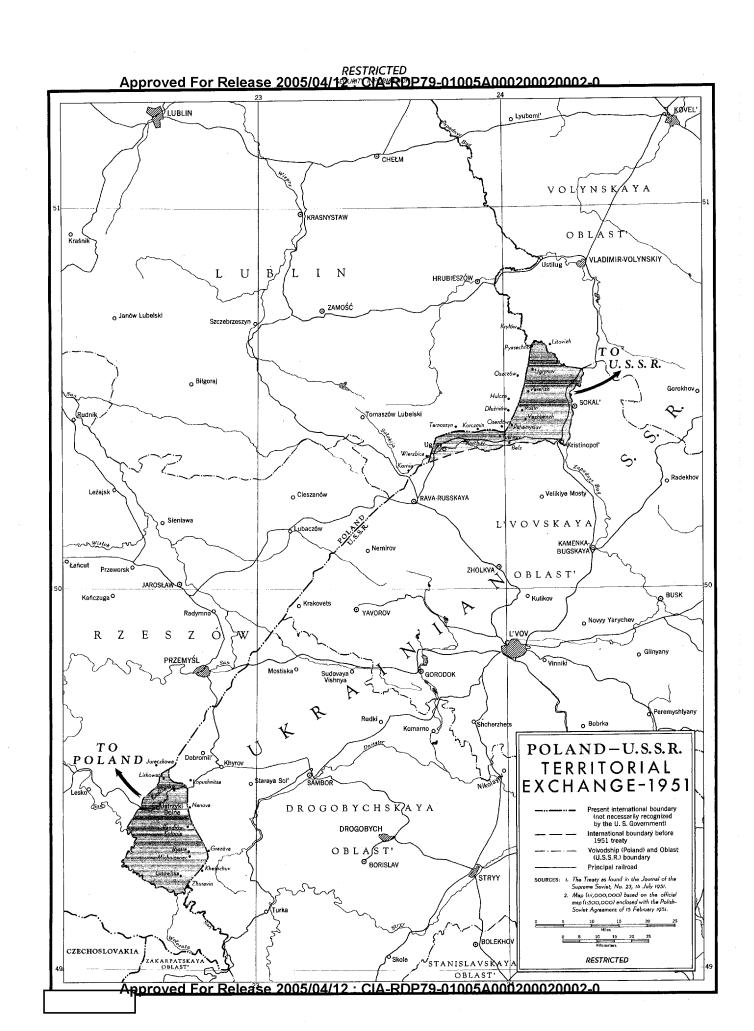
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Although the equal-area exchange of territory had no effect on the total areas of Poland and the USSR, it did alter somewhat the local administrative set-ups. Administrative areas that lost territory as a result of the transfer were Lublin Voivodship (province) in Poland and Drogobychskaya Oblast in the Ukrainian SSR. The area acquired by Poland appears to have been incorporated into Rzeszów Voivodship and the area acquired by the USSR into L'vovskaya Oblast.

Other clauses in the exchange agreement included provisions that (1) all movable property could be taken from the areas by the ceding countries; (2) all immovable property should stay for the acquiring countries, the latter owing no compensation for such properties, nor for any other part of the exchange; (3) citizens of the relinquishing countries would be moved out of the ceded areas and resettled.

Indicates that the resettlement of the Soviet inhabitants of the area acquired by Poland has been accomplished and that Poles have moved into the area.

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III. SUPPRESSION OF MAPS IN THE SOVIET ZONE OF GERMANY

The <u>Gesetzblatt</u> (Official Gazette) of the "German Democratic Republic" contains ordinances restricting the publication and distribution of maps within the Soviet Zone of Germany.1/ The production and publication of new maps or the rerun of old maps must be approved by the Ministry of the Interior. In general, the issuance of maps at scales of 1:100,000 and larger is prohibited, but the Ministry of the Interior has the power to authorize publication of large-scale maps "for official use only." All maps must be printed in licensed printing shops, and each map must carry the individual license number for the job in the lower margin.

In implementing the restrictions, the Ministry of the Interior canceled all printing permits in 1951 and required that publishing companies should make special applications for licenses to print charts and maps. To obtain a license, a company is required to submit for approval, on a quarterly basis, specifications for all map jobs to be undertaken, including rough sketches of the maps and the size of run.

That the Soviet restrictions have effectively stultified map production is exemplified by the postwar activities of Justus Perthes, Gotha, one of the world's best known map publishers.

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	has been restricted to general maps mainly for school use. Among			
	these are maps of Germany at scales of 1:1,000,000 and 1:5,000,000			
	and of East Germany at 1:500,000 and 1:250,000. Heack wall maps			
	are printed only on order from Volk und Wissen Verlag, the official			
	Communist book store. This same store controls the distribution of			
	over three-quarters of a million copies of an East German public			
	school atlas published by Justus Perthes, probably the Atlas zur			
	Erd- und Länderkunde (Department of State Library Call No. G1019			
	.P3 1951).	25>		
	Since July 1918, Perthes has resumed regular publication of the geographical periodical, <u>Petermanns Mitteilungen</u> (see Map Research			
	Bulletin No. 4, March 1949, pp. 15-17), but the number of articles			
	on the USSR and its satellites in recent issues has decreased. It			

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